

Message Text

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TAGS: NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO: SPANISH ACCESS TO THE NATO

SUPPLY CODIFICATION SYSTEM (SCS)

REFS: A. STATE 087335, (DTG 190021Z APR 77)

B. AMEMBASSY MADRID 3059, (DTG 211543Z APR 77)

C. MADRID 3480 (DTG 051631Z)

1. SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND ON THE SUPPLY CODIFICATION SYSTEM, AND THE
US SYSTEM TO WHICH SPAIN MAY HAVE ACCESS, FOLLOWS. WITH
PROPOSED NEXT STEPS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BILATERAL
AGREEMENT. THE NATO SCS IS MADE UP OF MEMBER COUNTRY
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SUPPLY CODIFICATION SYSTEMS. THE US FEDERAL CATALOG
SYSTEM IS A NATIONAL SYSTEM WHICH ALSO PARTICIPATES IN THE
NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM. AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN SPAIN
AND THE US GOVERNMENT FOR MATERIEL CODIFICATION SERVICES
WILL BE A BILATERAL "TWO PARTY" ARRANGEMENT UTILIZING THE
US FEDERAL CATALOG SYSTEM. THIS TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT IS
MANDATORY DUE TO NATO POLICY THAT PROHIBITS ACCESS TO THE

NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM BY ANY COUNTRY THAT IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE. THE UNITED STATES HAS SIMILAR

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR MATERIEL CODIFICATION SERVICES WITH BOTH NATO AND NON-NATO COUNTRIES UTILIZING THE US FEDERAL CATALOG SYSTEM ON A COST REIMBURSEMENT BASIS. SPAIN MAY ALSO WISH TO ESTABLISH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO IF CODIFICATION DATA ARE REQUIRED FOR ITEMS WHICH THEY PRODUCE. THE EXPERIENCE WITH THE US SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE A THOROUGH TRIAL OF THE PRACTICABILITY OF SUPPLY CODIFICATION SERVICES, PROCEDURES AND DATA FOR SPAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM IS A UNIFORM AND COMMON SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFICATION, CLASSIFICATION AND STOCK NUMBERING ITEMS OF SUPPLY OF THE NATO COUNTRIES. IT IS

DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS IN LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND TO FACILITATE DATA MANAGEMENT IN THE AREA OF MATERIEL. THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN AGREED BY ALL SIGNATORIES OF THE ALLIANCE FOR USE IN IDENTIFYING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES (IN PARTICULAR, COMMON OR NATO PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT USED BY TWO OR MORE COUNTRIES AND PROCURED FROM ANOTHER). ITS INTERNATIONAL UTILIZATION IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE MANUFACTURER'S COUNTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CODIFICATION OF THE ITEM, EVEN IF THIS ITEM IS NOT USED IN ITS OWN SERVICES. THAT MEANS THE BUYER'S COUNTRY HAS TO REQUEST CODIFICATION ACTIONS FROM THE PRODUCER'S COUNTRY. IN ITS MILITARY APPLICATION, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SYSTEM HAS BEEN ACCEPTED UNDER STANDARD NATO AGREEMENTS (STANAG'S) 3150 AND 3151. THE SYSTEM, WHICH IS BASED UPON THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL CATALOG SYSTEM, IS ALSO USED BY THE CIVIL DEPARTMENTS OF SOME NATO COUNTRIES. IT IS GOVERNED BY THE NATO GROUP OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS ON CODIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT (NATO COMMITTEE AC/135). THE IMPLEMENTATION IS A NATIONAL CONCERN, AND IS PERFORMED BY THE NATIONAL CODIFICATION BUREAU OF EACH COUNTRY.

3. STANAG 3150 PROVIDES A UNIFORM SYSTEM OR SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION FOR USE BY NATO ARMED FORCES. IT HAS BEEN RATIFIED BY 15 NATO MEMBERS (INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES) AND WAS PROMULGATED BY THE NATO MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE "UNITED STATES FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION" (ALSO KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN-BRITISH-CANADIAN (A.B.C.) SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION) AS THE "NATO SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION" FOR USE BY SIGNATORY COUNTRIES' ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED TO NATO.

4. STANAG 3151 PROVIDES A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ITEM IDENTIFICATION FOR USE BY THE NATO ARMED FORCES. IT HAS BEEN RATIFIED BY 15 MEMBERS (INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES) AND WAS PROMULGATED BY THE NATO MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION. IT PROVIDES FOR THE ADOPTION, FOR USE WITHIN THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES' ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED TO NATO, OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL SYSTEM OF ITEM IDENTIFICATION AS THE BASIS FOR THE NATO ITEM IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

5. THE UNIFORM STOCK NUMBERING SYSTEM CONSISTS OF THE FOUR POSITION SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION CODE, THE TWO POSITION CODE FOR THE NATIONAL CODIFICATION BUREAU (COUNTRY CODE) AND THE NINE POSITION NATIONAL ITEM IDENTIFICATION NUMBER. UNDER A BILATERAL AGREEMENT, A NATIONAL CODIFICATION BUREAU CODE MAY BE RESERVED AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR SPAIN IF REQUIRED.

6. IN THE INTEREST OF INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS, IMPROVING THE DATA HANDLING FOR MATERIEL, AIDING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY OF NATIONS AND PROMOTING GREATER EFFICIENCY IN LOGISTICS OPERATIONS, THE SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR EACH "ITEM FOR SUPPLY": A SINGLE ITEM NAME; A SINGLE UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION; A SINGLE UNIFORM IDENTIFICATION, AND, A SINGLE UNIFORM STOCK NUMBER. ALL SUCH DATA ARE COLLECTED AND STORED IN NATIONAL DATA BANKS FOR IMMEDIATE RETRIEVAL TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF ITEMS TO ACT AS A "REFERENCE LIBRARY" AGAINST WHICH ALL NEW ITEMS REQUIRED MAY BE SCREENED FOR DUPLICATION, SOURCE OF SUPPLY OR VARIOUS OTHER INFORMATION.

7. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE SYSTEM, INTERNATIONALLY AGREED METHODS AND PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN SET UP TO FACILITATE A CONSTANT EXCHANGE OF CODIFICATION DATA AND SERVICES BETWEEN COUNTRIES. THE ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM PROVIDES A UNIFORM IDENTIFICATION LANGUAGE BETWEEN NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND NATIONS. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A SINGLE SUPPLY LANGUAGE FURNISHES ACCURATE INFORMATION AS TO THE IDENTITY OF AN ITEM, PERMITS RECORDING OF SOURCES OF SUPPLY AND PROVIDES SUCH OTHER DATA AS MANAGEMENT MAY REQUIRE. IT GREATLY FACILITATES DATA MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS BY QUICK RESPONSES FROM A SINGLE, UP-TO-DATE SOURCE.

8. THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION OF THE NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO THE SERVICES AND DATA THAT CAN BE

PROVIDED FROM THE U.S. FEDERAL CATALOG SYSTEM. U.S. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR CATALOG SERVICES PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIALLY THE SAME STANDARD PROCEDURES AND DATA FOR ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS INTENDED TO RESOLVE THE CONFUSION STATED IN REF B ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TWO SYSTEMS AND SERVICES FOR NON-NATO COUNTRIES.

9. AS REGARDS NEXT STEPS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BILATERAL CODIFICATION AGREEMENT, (PARA 3 REF B AND PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REF C) THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY WILL BE DESIGNATED AS THE AGENT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTION OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT. THAT AGENCY WILL BE REQUESTED TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH EMBASSY MADRID AND THE SPANISH CONTACT OFFICER, LT. COL. MARTIN, BY JUNE 10, 1977, CONCERNING INITIAL INFORMATION

INVOLVING THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, LEVEL OF SERVICES DESIRED, AND A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT. THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY WILL BE MR. HARRY EARLY, DLAH-SC; CAMERON STATION, VIRGINIA, 22314; AUTOVON 284-6715 OR COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE 703/274-6751. ARRANGEMENTS FOR LT. COL. MARTIN TO VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C., AND BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN, TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH APPROPRIATE PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THESE MATTERS, CAN BE WORKED OUT BY THE U.S. POINT OF CONTACT. BRUSSELS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION IN WHICH TO DISCUSS MATERIEL CODIFICATION SERVICES FROM THE U.S. FEDERAL CATALOG SYSTEM.

10. THE SPANISH SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT THIS IS A REIMBURSABLE SYSTEM, IN WHICH ALL COUNTRIES (INCLUDING NATO MEMBERS) PAY FOR SERVICES USED AT THE SAME RATES. ANNUAL COSTS THUS DEPEND ON THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF TRANSACTIONS.

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